M&E IN AN INSURGENCY
REMOTE MONITORING OF
THE AUSTRALIAN AID
PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN

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DRIVERS FOR THE NEW APPROACH TO M&E

- Complexity
- Conflict affected environment
- Access limitations and security risks
- Poor national statistics and lack of data from provinces
- Potential for unintended consequences
M&E LAB PRINCIPLES

- **Realism** about the level of data and reporting that can be expected.
- **Partnerships** of high quality with reputable, trusted partners.
- **Fewer, higher quality indicators** - acknowledging there is a high cost, beneficiary impact and security risk in collecting data.
- **Using innovative confirmation methods** in complex environments.
- **Monitoring for unintended consequences** - horizon scanning to ensure we are doing no harm.
- **Collaboration with others** in monitoring and sharing of information.
SENTINEL INDICATORS

- Used as a ‘bellwether’ for indicating that greater changes are occurring within a complex system
- NOT used to measure a result (no targets)
- Signals need for further analysis and investigation
- Informs decision making in iterative, adaptive management approach
**USE OF SENTINEL INDICATORS IN DRAFT PAF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Outcome Indicator</th>
<th>Target 2018-2019</th>
<th>Target 2019-2020</th>
<th>Contributing DFAT investments</th>
<th>Data collection and verification methods</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outcome 5: Vulnerable Afghans in target areas receive lifesaving services</td>
<td>5.1 Number of returning Afghan migrants, refugees, internally displaced peoples and their host communities accessing lifesaving services (ADR) – disaggregated, where possible, by gender/age/disability</td>
<td>320,000 Returnees/Refugees/IDPs/host communities access lifesaving services as a result of Australian aid (disaggregated by sex and disability)</td>
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<td>CHF, AACRS, EVAW, CARE education, UNFPA, WFP</td>
<td>TAF Annual Survey, Partner Progress and Annual Reports, GIS mapping/satellite imagery of our aid investments</td>
<td>Humanitarian support is provided in a timely and effective manner, that provides protection and does not harm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.2 Number of female survivors of violence who access services (ADR)</td>
<td>2,000 Female survivors of violence receive services (medical, protection, legal)</td>
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<td>EVAW – UNFPA and UN Women</td>
<td>TAF Annual Survey, Partner Progress and Annual Reports, GIS mapping/satellite imagery of our aid investments</td>
<td>Women’s access to services enables them to address or escape violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcome 6: Improved attitudes towards EVAW in targeted areas</td>
<td>6.1 Increased proportion of targeted population groups show evidence of changed attitudes in support of violence against women</td>
<td>Proportion of all/men/women who show evidence of changed attitudes towards violence against women maintained at 2017 levels</td>
<td>Proportion of all/men/women who show evidence of changed attitudes towards violence against women continues to increase</td>
<td>CHF, AACRS, EVAW, UNFPA</td>
<td>TAF Annual Survey, Partner Progress and Annual Reports, GIS mapping/satellite imagery of our aid investments</td>
<td>Social attitudes to violence against women will lead to lower incidence and better results for survivors in their communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Australia’s Aid Objective 3: The lives of vulnerable Afghans are improved through targeted Australian support

Sentinel indicator: Increase in household income in targeted area (AACRS) Sentinel indicator to be developed: women’s empowerment in target locations

M&E in an Insurgency

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ICT & BIG DATA

- Satellite imagery and mobile phone big data are potential options in Afghanistan
- Pilot with Aga Khan Foundation Afghanistan and PulseLab Jakarta
- Exploring feasibility of using mobile phone big data to develop proxy indicator for women’s mobility or status (sentinel indicator)
ITERATIVE, ADAPTIVE APPROACHES

- Integrating iterative, adaptive management approaches at the investment level and management-based monitoring for complexity, e.g. Strategy Testing
- Emphasis on testing assumptions and horizon scanning for potential unintended consequences
- Emphasis on process indicators, e.g. to monitor health of partnership
KEY LEARNINGS

- Need to tread carefully, keeping a strong focus on ethical considerations and DNH
- Adaptive management approaches are critical in high-risk, conflict-affected environments
- It takes time to socialise and embed innovative approaches
- Tried and trusted partners are key
- There is great potential for application in other conflict-affected, remote or otherwise inaccessible contexts